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# AUDRE LORDE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Established in 1995, the Audre Lorde Scholarship Fund is the brainchild of ZAMI's current President and one of its co-founders, Mary Anne Adams. The first two scholarships were awarded in January 1997 to *Wendi O'Neal* from Spelman College and *Akeya Works* from Georgia State University.

It is ZAMI's goal to award four named scholarships of $1000 each in May 1998 to out lesbians of African descent who are graduating high school seniors or enrolled in any technical, undergraduate or graduate program in the state of Georgia.

The **Mary Anne Adams** Award is named in honor of one of Atlanta's longtime community organizers, ZAMI's co-founder and the creator of the Audre Lorde Scholarship Fund. Professionally, she earns her livelihood as a social research manager.

The **Catherine E. McKinley** Award is named in honor of the author of ***THE BOOK OF SARAHS,***(William Morrow, forthcoming in 1999) and co-editor of ***AFREKETE*** (Anchor Books/Doubleday, 1995), the first published collection of writings by Black lesbians.

The **Dr. Iris F. Rafi** Award is named for one of the co-founders of ZAMI and the woman who suggested the name "ZAMI," by which Atlanta's premier lesbian collective is known. She is a former professor of literature at Spelman College and Clark Atlanta University.

The **Jocelyn Taylor** Award is named for a prominent video artist who has produced and directed provocative videos about Black lesbians ranging from her first video, ***Father Knows Best*** to ***Bodily Functions***, an exploration of notions of body image and sexual expression as they intersect with family and society.

**ZAMI Steering Committee Members:**
**Mary Anne Adams**
**Beryl Jackson**
**Iris Fawzia Rafi**
**Michelle R. Smith**
**Frances E. Wood**

**Contact the**
**Audre Lorde Scholarship Fund**
**for an application**
**or to make a donation:**
**Post Office Box 2502**
**Decatur, Georgia 30031**

ZAMI LINE (404) 370-0920
ATLZAMI@aol.com

Deadline for postmark of application is April 30, 1998

# ZAMI, INC.

## THE AUDRE LORDE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

***"As women, we have been taught either to ignore our differences, or to view them as causes for separation and suspicion rather than forces for change. Without community there is no liberation, only the most vulnerable and temporary armistice between an individual and her oppression."***
**— Audre Lorde**

ZAMI: A Carriacou word for women who work together as friends and lovers.....

## MISSION

ZAMI, Inc. is a not for profit collective of lesbians of African descent residing in the Atlanta Metropolitan area. Our primary mission is the procurement and dispensation of scholarship funds to lesbians of African descent attending an accredited post secondary institution in the state of Georgia. We also provide a forum and affirming safe space for the voices of lesbian writers of color. Finally, ZAMI sponsors special programming to develop the leadership potential of young lesbians and to honor the life and legacy of Audre Lorde.

## HERSTORY

In October 1989, a Women of Color Caucus (WOCC) was created by lesbian members of the African-American Lesbian and Gay Alliance (AALGA) to focus on their political, social, economic, and personal needs. In June 1990, WOCC members voted to secede from AALGA in order to become an autonomous entity. Ever evolving, these women renamed themselves ZAMI- a Carriacou word meaning women who work together as friends and lovers. The name ZAMI also honors the late Audre Lorde, a Black lesbian feminist who was poet laureate for New York state and who wrote the biomythography **ZAMI: A New Spelling of My Name.** For most of its existence ZAMI provided a support base of discussion, information and programming for lesbians of African descent in the Atlanta area. In February 1998, ZAMI narrowed its focus to promote, enhance and sustain the Audre Lorde Scholarship Fund.

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Presented celebrations honoring the life and work of Audre Lorde
- Awarded scholarships to Black lesbians enrolled in Georgia colleges
- Published a bi-monthly newsletter
- Hosted Black Lesbian writers:
  ***doris davenport***
  ***Terri Jewel***
  ***Catherine E. McKinley***
  ***Penny Mickelbury***
  ***Lisa Moore***
  ***Kathleen Morris***
  ***The Shirley***
  ***Linda Villarosa***
  ***Evelyn C. White***
  ***Shay Youngblood***
- Premiered the works of Black lesbian artists in Atlanta:

  Video activist ***Jocelyn Taylor***
  Filmmakers ***Michelle Parkerson and Ada Gay Griffin***
- Co-sponsored important events: The Atlanta Premiere of *A Litany for Survival: The Life and Work of Audre Lorde*; Annual *Bayard Rustin* rally; *Mab Segrest and Suzanne Pharr* reading; The first lesbian and gay Black History Celebration at Spelman College
- Conducted a weekend retreat on internalized homophobia with funding from the Fund for Southern Communities

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